

REMARKS

By this Amendment claim 1 has been amended to better define the invention (note the disclosure on page 3, lines 21-27), and claim 5 has been clarified. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hartl, and he has rejected claims 2-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartl. These rejections cannot be applied to the amended claims.

Hartl discloses a conventional hearing aid with a housing 1 having a face plate 2, a cover 3 and a printed circuit board 9 with electronic devices 10 and a support zone 13 for fastening to the face plate 2. Conventional wires extend between transducers 14, 16. As shown in Fig. 3, the wires are not formed on the face plate 2 nor are they continuously connected to the face plate, but are spaced away from the face plate and are simply attached at their ends to the transducer and the circuit board, respectively. Thus, Hartl cannot be said to suggest applicants' amended claim 1. Nor does Hartl suggest the features defined in applicants' dependent claims 3 or 4.

The examiner's rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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